



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arcata Field Office
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May 1, 2006

In Reply Refer To:
(1610)
CA-330

Dear Reader,

With the acquisition of the Mill Creek Forest in 1997, the Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy (MCWC) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for partnership planning and management of public lands in this important lower Mattole River tributary. Just as the local community brought together several agencies and non-profit organizations and championed the initial conservation and acquisition of the Mill Creek Forest, they have also taken a leadership role in the management planning effort. With assistance from the Mattole Restoration Council, California Coastal Conservancy and BLM, the MCWC developed a community proposal and environmental analysis for management of the area and presented it to the BLM in 2005. This community plan considers all BLM managed lands within the Mill Creek Watershed, including the recently acquired Reed parcel.

This community-led planning effort included extensive public involvement. The Mill Creek plan's goals, objectives, and actions conform fully with those in the King Range National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan, including priorities for trail development, and watershed and forest restoration. Based on these factors, the BLM is proposing to accept the major recommendations of the plan and move forward to begin implementation.

The attached "Preliminary Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact" (preliminary DR/FONSI) outlines the major goals, objectives and actions that the BLM proposes to carry forward from the community plan and implement through partnership management over approximately the next 10 years. We are asking the public to review this preliminary DR/FONSI to make sure that it captures the essential components of the community plan, and that it outlines priority restoration and management actions for the Mill Creek watershed. The review is also intended to meet the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The community plan can be viewed in its entirety on the Mattole Restoration Council web site (www.mattole.org – click on the “Publications” icon, then the “Mill Creek CMP” icon). A copy can also be obtained by contacting the BLM. Please provide written or e-mail comments to:

Bob Wick
Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95519
rwick@ca.blm.gov.

Please provide your comments by June 9, 2006. Comments must be postmarked or e-mailed to the BLM by this date for consideration in the planning process. The BLM will review comments and make needed changes before issuing the final DR/FONSI. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Wick at (707)825-2300. Thank you for your interest in the Mill Creek Watershed. The BLM looks forward to continuing the community partnership to manage and restore this special area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynda Roush". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lynda Roush
Arcata Field manager

Attachment: Preliminary DR/FONSI